

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council		Item ID		Agenda Number	8.
Meeting Date:	8/2/2012			Department:	Austin Energy
Subject					
Approve a one-year membership in the AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION, Washington, D.C., the nonprofit, non-partisan, service organization for the nation’s community-owned electric utilities including Austin Energy, in an amount not to exceed \$95,540.					
Amount and Source of Funding					
Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.					
Fiscal Note					
A fiscal note is not required.					
Purchasing Language:					
Prior Council Action:					
For More Information:	Mark Dreyfus, Director, Regulatory and Government Affairs, 322-6544.				
Boards and Commission Action:	Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission				
MBE / WBE:					
Related Items:					

## Additional Backup Information

Austin Energy is seeking Council approval to pay its annual membership dues in The American Public Power Association (APPA), based in Washington, D.C. APPA is the service organization for the nation's community-owned electric utilities, including long-standing member Austin Energy, the eighth largest public power utility in the country. Collectively, APPA's more than 1,300 member utilities serve more than 40 million Americans. APPA was created in 1940 as a nonprofit, non-partisan organization to advance the public policy interests of its members and their consumers, and provide member services to ensure adequate, reliable electricity at a reasonable price with the proper protection of the environment.

Policy positions emphasize the importance of hometown decision making that puts customers first and ensures a stable supply of electricity while protecting the environment. Since two-thirds of public power systems do not generate their own electricity and instead buy it on the wholesale market for distribution to customers, securing competitively priced and reliable wholesale power is a priority.

APPA participates in a wide range of legislative and regulatory forums. It advocates policies that:

- ensure reliable electricity service at competitive costs;
- advance diversity and equity in the electric utility industry;
- promote effective competition in the wholesale electricity marketplace;
- protect the environment and the health and safety of electricity consumers and;
- safeguard the ability of communities to provide infrastructure services that their consumers require.

Member utilities also take advantage of APPA's information services, utility programs, and professional development opportunities. For example, the APPA's Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) program recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate better-than-average proficiency in four key areas of operations: reliability, safety, system improvements, and workforce development. Criteria within each category are based on best business practices and a demonstrated utility-wide commitment to the safe and reliable delivery of electricity. In 2011, Austin Energy was the first public power utility in Texas and one of only three utilities nationwide to earn RP3 Diamond Level recognition by the APPA. This is the highest level of recognition awarded to public utilities for excellence in system reliability and safety.